



Veterans' Affairs Committee  
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## **Veterans' Affairs Committee MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Veterans' Affairs Committee was called to order by C. Martin Stevens, Chairperson, on Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., in the mayor Council Chambers, City Hall, 255 W. Alameda St., Tucson, Arizona.

### **1. Call to Order/Establish a Quorum**

#### Members Present:

Donald Alff  
Bernard McCaffery  
Joan Shadwick  
William Burks  
J.L. "Pepe" Mendoza  
Herbert Rogers  
Aaron Possien  
C. Martin Stevens, Chairperson  
E. Wendell Hague  
Paul R. Hetrick

#### Members Absent:

Dr. Lester Potts  
Louis Romero

#### Others Present:

Karen Alff  
Rose Anderson  
Murray Handler  
Mrs. Handler

#### Representing:

American Legion Post #7  
American Legion Post #73  
AZ Department of Veterans Services  
DAV Cactus Chapter #2  
DVA S. AZ. VA Health Care System  
Spanish Trail Chapter NCOA  
The Order of the Silver Rose  
Veteran's Employment & Training  
VFW Post #549  
Vietnam Veterans of America, CH. 106

#### Representing:

American Legion Post #36  
American Legion Post #59

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Donald Alff.

### **3. Invocation**

The invocation was given by Chairperson Stevens.

### **4. Introduction of Guests**

Donald Alff introduced the guests in attendance.

**5. Approval of New Members**

A copy of a letter was distributed from Michael Sherman of the Tucson Jewish War Veterans Friedman-Paul Post 201, requesting Murray Handler replace Norman Ross.

It was moved, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Louis Romero and Dr. Lester Potts absent/excused) to ratify the approval of new members, Larry Byrd, Rose Anderson and William Stein from the February 13, 2007 meeting and approve new member Murray Handler.

**6. Chairperson's Report on Current Events: For the Good of the Order**

No report given at this time

**7. Approval of Minutes –January 10, 2007 and February 13, 2007**

It was moved, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Louis Romero and Dr. Lester Potts absent/excused) to approve the minutes of January 10, 2007 and February 13, 2007 as presented.

**8. Four Chaplains Ceremony Follow Up**

Chairperson Stevens spoke about the "Four Chaplains Commemorative Ceremony" held at the Veterans Memorial site, which was coordinated by the VAMC Chaplain Zinc and VAMC Public Affairs Coordinator and VAC member, J.L. "Pepe" Gonzales, who coordinated with Channel 13. Retired Army Chaplain Merle Gathers, now with AZDES Vet, assisted VAMC Chaplain Zinc by providing acapella singers for the ceremony. Snacks and refreshments were provided by the American Legion Post # 59.

**9. Recruitment of Organizations**

Chairperson Stevens reminded members to contact other Veteran organizations whenever possible to show that they stand united and they are strength in numbers. Veterans (families, units, etc.) should be recognized appropriately and in a timely manner.

**10. Committee Reports – Discussion/Action**

**a. Airport Military Lounge**

The improvements now make the lounge a place everyone could be proud to have service members and family members use for meeting, greeting, and saying goodbye.

**b. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services**

The initial step had been taken by having the Arizona Department of Veterans Services member, Joan Shadwick become an active member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, to participate and make the joint agency and the Veterans Affairs Committee work synergistically.

**c. V A Hospital**

J.L. "Pepe" Mendoza did an excellent job in coordinating with news agencies, to let the powers that be know what was going on with regard to ongoing and upcoming events. Southern Arizona Veterans Medical Center was not caught up in the quagmire other VA facilities have found themselves in. A new goal was to let the good be known while working on minor issues before they become problems.

**d. Financial Report**

Donald Alff and Wendell Hague were working together to reconcile the financial reports to ensure everything would be accounted for and that all transactions were legal. A 2007 financial report would be forthcoming and presented once finished.

It was moved, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Louis Romero and Dr. Lester Potts absent/excused) to ratify the approval of the Financial Report as presented from the February 13, 2007 meeting and approve new member Murray Handler.

**11. Future Agenda Items**

No items were discussed at this meeting.

**12. Salute to Colors**

The Salute to Colors was conducted by the whole assembly.

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.